



E-News

December 2006

Volume 1, Number 8

In This Issue

- NHSN Training – Analysis Training!
- Reminders about Digital Certificates
- Changing your Email Address
- Expansion of NHSN
- NHSN Report - 2007

NHSN Links

NHSN Website

NHSN Patient Safety Component Protocols

DHQP Website

Contact Us

NHSN@cdc.gov

NHSN Analysis Training

Many users have asked for additional information and training on output options and analysis in NHSN. Jonathan Edwards, our statistician in DHQP will present the following training sessions

Thursday, December 14, 2:00 – 4:00 pm EST

Analysis overview – 45 minutes

Analysis – DA Module – 1 hour 15 min

Audio Participant

LEADER: Jasie Jackson

USA Toll Free Number: 888-469-1983

PASSCODE: TEAM

Net conferencing participant access information:

URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference number: PG2268289

Audience Passcode: TEAM

Tuesday, December 19, 2:00 – 4:00 pm EST

Analysis – PA Module – 45 min

Analysis – MA module – 30 min

Analysis – Advanced features – 45 min

Audio Participant

LEADER: Jasie Jackson

USA toll Free Number: 888-469-1983

PASSCODE: TEAM

Net conferencing participant access information

URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference Number: PG2268297

Audience Passcode: TEAM

We hope you'll join us for these informative training sessions.

Reminders about Digital Certificates

You possess the only copy(s) of your digital certificate

Because of this, we strongly recommend that you create a backup copy of your digital certificate onto an external storage device (i.e., floppy disk, flash drive, CD) after it has been successfully installed on your computer. (For instructions on how to make a backup copy, please see Step 3e of the NHSN User Start-up Guide available on the NHSN website.) Please keep this backup copy in a safe place. If a backup copy is not created and something happens to your computer where it becomes inaccessible, you will have to apply for a new digital certificate.

Your digital certificate is only available where it has been installed

When your IT department assigns you a new computer, your digital certificate is not automatically installed on your new computer. If you made a backup copy (which we strongly recommend) you can import your digital certificate, with the help of your IT staff, onto your new computer. (For instructions, please see Step 3f of the NHSN User Start-up Guide.) If you did not make a backup copy of your digital certificate, ask your IT staff if you, or they, have access to your old machine so that you may export your digital certificate onto an external storage device. If you cannot gain access to your old computer, you will have to apply for a new digital certificate. Without this, you will not be able to access the NHSN via the Secure Data Network.

Remember, digital certificates are specific to each user and you must have your own digital certificate on your computer in order to access the NHSN.

Your digital certificate costs CDC about \$100 – please take good care of it!

Changing your Email Address

If, for any reason, your email address is changed, it's very important that you record the new email address in both the Secure Data Network (SDN) and in the NHSN application. Do not send an email notifying CDC of the change – you must make email changes yourself. Here are the steps you should take:

1. First, make the change in the SDN. Log on to the SDN (<https://sdn.cdc.gov>), in the usual manner, using your

challenge phrase. From the menu bar at the top right of the screen, select **My Preferences**. Select **My Personal Information**. A screen with your demographics will appear. Make the appropriate change in your email address and click on Update at the bottom of the screen.

2. Next, make the email address change in NHSN. From the navigation bar in NHSN, select **Users** and **Find**. Click on your name and a screen with your demographic information will appear. At the bottom of the screen, select **Edit**. Make the change in your email address and click on **Save**. If you are unable to access your user information, please ask your Facility Administrator to make the email change for you.

Note: if you do not follow the above steps when you have a change in your email address, you may stop receiving email correspondence from CDC.

Expansion of NHSN

NHSN is growing! As you can see from the NHSN Statistics below, we're bringing in more hospitals every day. Our goal since we first began is to open NHSN to all healthcare facilities that would like to participate. We're working very hard towards that goal. We have established priorities for bringing facilities into NHSN. Tentatively, this is the order in which we will accept enrollments into NHSN:

- Sister facilities to those hospitals that were NNIS facilities and are willing to sponsor and train "sisters".
- Hospitals in those states that have laws mandating reporting healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and plan to use NHSN for that purpose. At the present time there are 7 states that fall into this category – NY, SC, CT, CO, VT, TN, and VA. We are currently working with public health and infection control/prevention representatives from these states to get appropriate training completed for users in these facilities.
- Hospitals that participate in the MRSA Prevention Initiative which is coordinated by Dr. John Jernigan from DHQP.
- Hospitals that have previously expressed an interest in participation – we have a contact database of about 200 facilities that have indicated that they are interested in participation.
- All others

We are in the process of developing additional training materials that will be used for new users and which we will make available on the website. We expect to enroll up to about 100 facilities per month from the last 2 categories. We'll have more specific information and a formal

announcement ready in January, but we thought we would give our current users a “heads up” about where we are in the process. Stay tuned!

NHSN Statistics – December 2006

Facilities enrolled in NHSN	319
Monthly Reporting Plans	3,934
Patients entered	182,438
Summary Data Records	9,117
Events	
BSI	8,122
PNEU	4,438
SSI	7,098
UTI	6,453
DI	4,470
Procedures	171,333
Facilities importing OR records	25
Output (Rates, graphs, etc.) generated	28,524

NHSN Report 2007

The next report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) containing comparative healthcare-associated infection rates for hospitals will be comprised of data from the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for the year 2006. The new report will be published in the American Journal of Infection Control and posted on this website in late spring of 2007. It will contain device-associated infection rates and device utilization ratios for various types of intensive care units and other patient care areas. It will not contain surgical site infection (SSI) rates nor antimicrobial use and resistance (AUR) rates, as the databases for these calculations will not be sufficiently robust with just one year of data. Those who wish to compare SSI and AUR rates to the national aggregates may do so using the data in the 2004 NNIS Report.

